CLAIMS:

1. An optical disk drive comprising an electronic unit (PCB) comprising a first electronic circuit (CRT_1); an optical pick-up unit (OPU) that is movably assembled with respect to the electronic unit (PCB) and comprises light generation means (LS) for writing/reading data to/from an optical disk (DSK), and comprising a second electronic circuit (CRT_2) having a plurality of light sensors (PHDS) for receiving reflected light (RFL) from the disk (DSK) which originates from the light generation means (LS), each light sensor having an output for delivering an electrical signal (I_A - I_H); and coupling means for coupling the second electronic circuit (CRT_2) to the first electronic circuit (CRT_1) for the transfer of information between the first (CRT_1) and second (CRT_2) electronic circuits, characterized in that in a normal operational mode a number of the electrical signals (I_E,I_G; I_F,I_H) are combined by the second electronic circuit (CRT_2), these combined electrical signals (I_E,I_G; I_F,I_H) and the remaining uncombined electrical signals (I_A -I_D) being transferred via the coupling means to the first electronic circuit (CRT_1), and that in a test mode all or part of the electrical signals are separately processed by the second electronic circuit (CRT_2).

2. An optical disk drive according to claim 1, characterized in that the second electronic circuit (CRT_2) comprises a plurality of amplifiers (AMP_A - AMP_H) each having an input separately coupled to the outputs of the light sensors in the test mode and each having an output, in that a number of the outputs of the amplifiers, which number equals the number of the combined and the remaining uncombined electrical signals in the normal operational mode, is separately coupled to the coupling means; and in that a number of the inputs of the amplifiers, which number equals the number of the combined electrical signals, is separately coupled to other inputs of the amplifiers in the normal operational mode.

3. An optical disk drive according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the coupling means are implemented by a flexible electrical connection device (FCD).

4. An optical disk drive according to claim 3, characterized in that the flexible electrical connection device (FCD) is a flexible printed circuit.

5. An optical disk drive according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that during operation the light generation means (LS) generates a main light spot (MSP) and a first (FST) and a second (SST) satellite light spot, in that the plurality of light sensors (PHDS) is subdivided into a main part for receiving light which originates from the main light spot, a first satellite part for receiving light which originates from the first satellite light spot, and a second satellite part for receiving light which originates from the second satellite light spot, and in that the combined electrical signals (I_E,I_G; I_F,I_H) are combinations of electrical signals corresponding to the first and the second satellite parts of the light sensors.

6. An optical disk drive according to claim 5, characterized in that the main part comprises four sections (A, B, C, D) for delivering four of the electrical signals, further to be denoted the four main electrical signals (I_A, I_B, I_C, I_D), the first satellite part comprises two sections (E, F) for delivering two of the electrical signals not being the four main electrical signals (I_A, I_B, I_C, I_D), further to be denoted the two first satellite part electrical signals (I_E, I_F), and the second satellite part comprises two sections (G, H) for delivering two of the electrical signals not being the four main electrical signals (I_A, I_B, I_C, I_D) or the two first satellite part electrical signals (I_E, I_F), further to be denoted the two second satellite part electrical signals (I_G, I_H), and in that in the normal operational mode at least one of the two first satellite part electrical signals (I_E, I_F) is combined with at least one of the two second satellite part electrical signals (I_G, I_H).

7. An optical disk drive according to claim 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, characterized in that the second electronic circuit (CRT_2) comprises a BUS-system (BUS) for controlling the gain or gains of at least one of the amplifiers (AMP_A - AMP_H) by means of at least one control bit of the BUS-system (BUS), and in that additional information can be sent via the BUS-system (BUS) for switching off or putting into standby part of the amplifiers by the fact that the amplitude of the at least one control bit can be made greater than is necessary for controlling the gain or gains of at least one of the amplifiers.

8. An optical disk drive according to claim 7, characterized in that the BUS-system (BUS) uses a three-level logic.

9. An optical disk drive according to claim 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, characterized in that the second electronic circuit (CRT_2) comprises a three-level logic BUS-system (BUS) for controlling the gain or gains of at least one of the amplifiers (AMP_A - AMP_D) by means of at least one control bit of the BUS-system (BUS) and for sending additional information via the BUS-system (BUS) for switching off or putting into standby part of the amplifiers.

10. An optical disk drive according to claim 7, 8, or 9, characterized in that at least one power supply line (V_{SS}) of the at least one amplifier (AMP_A - AMP_D) is also used for sending the additional information by temporarily increasing or decreasing the voltage level on the at least one power supply line (V_{SS}).

11. A playback/recording apparatus comprising an optical disk drive as defined in any of the preceding claims.